

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising:

at least one information output apparatus configured to output an information signal,

including

an output terminal configured to output ~~only the information~~ an analog signal,

a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including

at least specific information ~~of~~ regarding the at least one information output

apparatus, and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to

superimpose information for identification onto the ~~information~~ analog signal to be

output from the output terminal; and

an information input apparatus configured to accept the ~~information~~ analog signal

from the at least one information output apparatus, including

plural input terminals configured to accept ~~only information~~ analog signals,

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal

including the specific information,

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,

an information-for-identification detecting unit configured to detect the

information for identification superimposed on one of the ~~information~~ analog signals

that are accepted by a respective one of the plural input terminals, and to cause the

switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals, and

an identifying unit configured to transmit a digital signal to the at least one

output apparatus that identifies ~~identify~~ the respective one of the plural input

~~terminals, which accepted~~ terminals that received the analog signal with the

information for identification superimposed thereon-detected, as an input terminal for the information signal sent from the at least one information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising:
at least one information output apparatus configured to output an information analog signal, including

an output terminal configured to output only the information the analog signal,
a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including at least specific information of regarding the at least one information output apparatus, and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information analog signal to be output from the output terminal; and
an information input apparatus configured to accept the information analog signal from the at least one information output apparatus, including

plural input terminals configured to accept only information analog signals,
a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal including specific information,

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,
a notifying unit configured to notify a user about the information for identification that is superimposed on the information analog signal supplied from an input terminal; to which

the switching unit is configured to switch among the plural input terminals in order to reproduce made by the switching unit by reproducing the information for identification, and

a decision manipulation unit configured to accept a command that controls the switching unit manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

3. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising:
at least one information output apparatus ~~configured to output an information signal, including connected to an information input apparatus via a first and second communication interface,~~

the at least one information output apparatus includes
an output terminal for the first communication interface,
a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including specific information of the at least one information output apparatus as additional information to via the second communication interface, and
an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto ~~the information~~ an analog signal to be output from the output terminal; and
an the information input apparatus is configured to accept the ~~information~~ analog signal from the at least one information output apparatus via [[a]] the first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information~~ the analog signal and a second communication interface for transmission of ~~an information~~ the digital signal and additional information, the information input apparatus including
plural input terminals for the first communication interface,

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal
including the specific information that is transmitted via the second communication
interface,

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,
an information-for-identification detecting unit configured to detect the
information for identification superimposed on one of the information analog signals
that are accepted by a respective one of the plural input terminals for the first
communication interface, and to cause the switching unit to switch among the plural
input terminals, and

an identifying unit configured to identify transmit a digital signal to the at least
one output apparatus that identifies the respective one of the plural input terminals,
~~which accepted the information for identification detected, as an input terminal for the~~
~~information that received the analog signal sent from the at least one information~~
~~output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending~~
~~unit.~~

4. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising:
at least one information output apparatus ~~configured to output an information signal,~~
~~including connected to an information input apparatus via a first and second communication~~
~~interface,~~

the output apparatus includes

an output terminal for the first communication interface,
a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including
specific information of the at least one information output apparatus as additional
information via the second communication interface, and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information analog signal to be output from the output terminal; and

~~an~~ the information input apparatus is configured to accept the information analog signal from the at least one information output apparatus via a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only~~ an information the analog signal and a second communication interface for transmission of ~~an information~~ the digital signal and additional information, the information input apparatus including

plural input terminals for the first communication interface,

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal including the specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface,

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals,

a notifying unit configured to notify a user about the information for identification that is superimposed on the information analog signal supplied from an input terminal for the first communication interface; to which

the switching unit is made by the switching unit by configured to switch among the plural inputs in order to reproduce reproducing the information for identification, and

a decision manipulation unit configured to accept a command that controls the switching unit manipulation of deciding an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the second communication interface.

5. (Previously Presented) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the information input apparatus further includes a connection management information recording unit configured to record input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

6. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information input apparatus further includes a connection management information recording unit configured to record, when the decision manipulation unit accepts the deciding manipulation command, input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which switching is made by the switching unit and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

7. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one information output apparatus sends to the information input apparatus via the related information sending unit a switching control signal including the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the at least one information output apparatus before outputting the information analog signal via the output terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1, wherein:

the information input apparatus further includes

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit; and

the at least one information output apparatus further includes

a connection management information supply request generating unit configured to generate a request to supply the connection management information stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus, and a switching control signal generating unit configured to generate a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the at least one information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request,

wherein before outputting ~~an information~~ the analog signal via the output terminal, the at least one information output apparatus sends via the related information sending unit the connection management information supply request and the switching control signal generated by the switching control signal generating unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the at least one information output apparatus further includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving unit configured to receive input terminal identification information of the input terminal identified by the identifying unit of the information input apparatus; and

a connection management information recording unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving unit in a connection management memory,

wherein before outputting ~~an information the analog~~ signal via the output terminal, the at least one information output apparatus causes the related information sending unit to send the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

10. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the at least one information output apparatus further includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving unit configured to receive input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which switching is made by the switching unit when the decision manipulation unit accepts the deciding manipulation; and

a connection management information recording unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving unit in a connection management memory,

wherein before outputting ~~an information the analog~~ signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus causes the related information sending unit to send the

information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

11. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing unit of the at least one information output apparatus ~~superimposes~~ is configured to superimpose a display message on the ~~information~~ analog signal in a case where the ~~information~~ analog signal is a video signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing unit of the at least one information output apparatus ~~superimposes~~ is configured to superimpose a voice message on the ~~information~~ analog signal in a case where the ~~information~~ analog signal is an audio signal.

13. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein:

the information-for-identification superimposing unit of the information output apparatus superimposes pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification on the ~~information~~ analog signal as information for detection; and

the information-for-identification detecting unit of the information input apparatus detects the pattern information superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal.

14. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further includes

a start request receiving unit configured to receive a start request for starting processing of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus,

the related information sending unit ~~sends~~ is configured to send the specific information when the start request receiving unit receives the start request, and the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes the information for identification on the ~~information~~ analog signal when the start request receiving unit receives the start request; and the information input apparatus further includes

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit,

a detecting unit configured to detect whether the connection management information is stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus, and

a start request sending unit configured to send the start request when the detecting unit detects that connection management information is not stored.

15. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one information output apparatus further includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving unit configured to receive input terminal identification information of the input terminal identified by the identifying unit of the information input apparatus;

a connection management information recording unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving unit in a connection management memory;

a detecting unit configured to detect whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the at least one information output apparatus;

the related information sending unit sends is configured to send the specific information when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the information analog signal when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored.

16. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further includes a manipulation unit configured to accept a start instruction input that commands start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the at least one information output apparatus;

the related information sending unit sends is configured to send the specific information when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction input; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the information analog signal when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction input.

17. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further includes a start request receiving unit configured to receive a start request for start of processing of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus;

the specific information sending unit sends is configured to send the specific information when the start request receiving unit receives the start request;

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the information analog signal when the start request receiving unit receives the start request; and

the information input apparatus further includes

a connection change detecting unit configured to detect a connection change in any of the input terminals of the information input apparatus, and

a start request sending unit configured to send the start request when the connection change detecting unit detects a connection change in any of the input terminals.

18. (Canceled).

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for accepting input of only an information an analog signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of the information output apparatus, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information the analog signal;
a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including at least specific information of the information output apparatus; and
an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information analog signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to accept the information analog signal.

21. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for accepting input of only an information an analog signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of the information output apparatus, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information the analog signal;
a related information sending unit configured to send a digital signal including at least specific information of the information output apparatus; and
an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information analog signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information analog signal.

22. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information~~ an analog signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of ~~an information signal~~ a digital signal and additional information, to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for the first communication interface and capable of accepting supply of the ~~information~~ digital signal and the additional information via the second communication interface, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for the first communication interface;

a related information sending unit configured to send the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus to the second communication interface as ~~additional information~~; and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the ~~information~~ analog signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used for identifying an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information input apparatus, the input terminal accepting input of the ~~information~~ analog signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information~~ an analog signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of ~~an information signal~~ a digital signal and additional information, to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for the first communication interface and capable of accepting supply of the ~~information~~ digital signal and the additional information via the second communication interface, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for the first communication interface;

a related information sending unit configured to send the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus to the second communication interfaceas additional information; and

an information-for-identification superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information analog signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs an information the analog signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal.

24. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, wherein the information output apparatus sends to the information input apparatus via the related information sending unit a switching control signal including specific information of the information output apparatus and to be used for making switching to switch to an input terminal of the information input terminal that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus before outputting an information the analog signal via the output terminal.

25. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising:

a connection management information supply request generating unit configured to generate a request for supplying connection management information held by the information input apparatus in which specific information of the information output apparatus and input terminal identification information indicating an input terminal connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other; and

a switching control signal generating unit configured to generate a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request,

wherein before outputting ~~an information~~ the analog signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus ~~sends~~ is configured to send, via the related information sending unit, the connection management information supply request and the switching control signal generated by the switching control signal generating unit.

26. (Previously Presented) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising:

an input terminal identification information receiving unit configured to receive input terminal identification information indicating an input terminal identified in the information input apparatus as an input terminal connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus; and

a connection management information recording unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving unit in a connection management memory,

wherein before outputting ~~an information~~ the analog signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus causes the related information sending unit to send the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

27. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising a start request receiving unit configured to receive a request for starting processing a process of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending unit sends is configured to send the specific information when the start request receiving unit receives the start request; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the information analog signal when the start request receiving unit receives the start request.

28. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 21 or 23, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose a display message on the information analog signal in a case where the information analog signal is a video signal.

29. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 21 or 23, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose a voice message on the information analog signal in a case where the information analog signal is an audio signal.

30. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 20 or 22, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes is configured to superimpose pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification on the information analog signal as information for detection.

31. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

a detecting unit configured to detect whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the information output apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending unit ~~sends~~ is configured to send the specific information when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit ~~superimposes~~ is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the ~~information~~ analog signal when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored.

32. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising a manipulation unit configured to accept a start instruction ~~input that commands start of processing~~ command that starts a process of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending unit ~~sends~~ configured to send the specific information when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction input; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit ~~superimposes~~ is configured to superimpose the information for identification on the ~~information~~ analog signal when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction ~~input~~ command.

33. (Canceled).

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for outputting ~~only an information an analog signal and capable of sending a digital signal including~~ specific information of the information output apparatus, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural input terminals for accepting input of ~~only an information the analog signal;~~

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept input of the digital signal ~~including~~ specific information;

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;

an information-for-identification detecting unit configured to detect information for identification from each of the ~~information analog~~ signals that is accepted via a respective one of the plural input terminals, and to cause the switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals; and

an identifying unit configured to transmit a digital signal to the at least one output apparatus that identifies identify an input terminal of the ~~information analog~~ signal from which the information for identification is detected by the information-for-identification detecting unit as an input terminal of the ~~information analog~~ signal sent from ~~an the at least one~~ information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting unit.

36. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for outputting ~~only an information an analog signal and capable of sending a digital signal including~~ specific information of the information output apparatus, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural input terminals for accepting input of ~~only an information~~ the analog signal;
a specific information accepting unit configured to accept input of the digital signal
including specific information;
a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;
a notifying unit configured to notify a user about information for identification that is superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal supplied from an input terminal; ~~to which~~
the switching unit is configured to switch among the plural input terminals in order to
reproduce made by the switching unit by reproducing the information for identification; and
a decision manipulation unit configured to accept a command that controls the
switching unit manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from
an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific
information accepting unit.

37. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information~~ analog signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of ~~an information signal~~ a digital signal and additional information, to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for the first communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural input terminals for the first communication interface;
a specific information accepting unit configured to accept a digital signal including specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface;
a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;
an information-for-identification detecting unit configured to detect information for identification from each of ~~information~~ analog signals that is accepted by a respective one of

the plural input terminals for the first communication interface, and to cause the switching unit to switch among the plural input terminals; and

an identifying unit configured to identify an input terminal of the ~~information analog~~ signal from which information for identification is detected by the information-for-identification detecting unit as an input terminal of the ~~information analog~~ signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting unit.

38. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information an analog~~ signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of ~~an information a digital~~ signal and additional information, to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for the first communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural input terminals for the first communication interface;

a specific information accepting unit configured to accept the digital signal including specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface;

a switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;

a notifying unit configured to notify a user about information for identification that is superimposed on the ~~information analog~~ signal supplied from an input terminal for the first communication interface; ~~to which~~

the switching unit is configured to switch among the plural input terminals in order to
reproduce switching is made by the switching unit by reproducing the information for identification; and

a decision manipulation unit configured to accept a command that controls the switching unit manipulation of deciding an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting unit.

39. (Previously Presented) The information input apparatus according to claim 35 or 37, further comprising a connection management information recording unit configured to record input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit and the specific information of the information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

40. (Previously Presented) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or 38, further comprising a connection management information recording unit configured to record, when the decision manipulation unit accepts the deciding manipulation, input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which switching is made by the switching unit and the specific information of the information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

41. (Previously Presented) The information input apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 38, further comprising a switching control unit configured to control the switching unit in accordance with a switching control signal that is sent from the information output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting unit.

42. (Previously Presented) The information input apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising:

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit;

a connection management information sending unit configured to send the information output apparatus the connection management information stored in the connection management memory in response to a connection management information supply request that is sent from the information output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting unit; and

a switching control unit configured to control the switching unit in accordance with a switching control signal that is sent from the information output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting unit.

43. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or 38, wherein the information for identification that is superimposed on the information analog signal is a display message.

44. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or 38, wherein the information for identification that is superimposed on the information analog signal is a voice message.

45. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 35 or 37, wherein:

the information for identification is predetermined pattern information; and
the information-for-identification detecting unit detects the pattern information that is superimposed on the information analog signal.

46. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising:

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit;

a detecting unit configured to detect whether the connection management information is stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus; and

a start request sending unit configured to send a start request for starting processing a process of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the output terminal of the information output apparatus is connected when the detecting unit detects that the connection management information is not stored.

47. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 38, further comprising:

a connection change detecting unit configured to detect a connection change in any of the plural input terminals of the information input apparatus; and

a start request sending unit configured to send a request for starting ~~processing a process~~ of identifying an input terminal of the ~~self information~~ information input apparatus to which the output terminal of the information output apparatus is connected when the connection change detecting unit detects a connection change in any of the plural input terminals.

48. (Canceled)

49. (Canceled).

50. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus via one of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals accepting ~~only an information~~ an analog signal;

providing the information input apparatus capable of accepting a digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus;

sending the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus to the information input apparatus;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus to be used to identify an input terminal of the information input apparatus, the information for identification being superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus;

detecting by the information input apparatus the information for identification superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the plural input terminals; and

transmitting a digital signal identifying an input terminal of the ~~information~~ analog signal to the output apparatus, from which the information for identification is detected, as an input terminal of the ~~information~~ analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

51. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus via one of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals accepting ~~only an information~~ an analog signal;

providing the information input apparatus capable of accepting a digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus;

sending the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus to the information input apparatus;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the ~~information~~ analog signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal to be output via an output terminal connected to an input terminal of the information input apparatus;

notifying, by with the information input apparatus, a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information the analog signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the plural input terminals; and

accepting, by with the information input apparatus, a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information the analog signal supplied from the input terminal switched to which switching is made, and identifying the input terminal that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

52. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus having plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information an analog signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information signal a digital signal and additional information;

sending the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus to be used to identify an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information analog signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface; and

detecting, by with the information input apparatus, the information for identification from the information analog signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the plural input terminals;[[,]] and

transmitting a digital signal identifying an input terminal of the information analog signal to the output apparatus, from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

53. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus having plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information an analog signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information a digital signal and additional information;

sending the digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information analog signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information analog signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

notifying, by with the information input apparatus, a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information the analog signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the plural input terminals; and.

accepting, by with the information input apparatus, a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information the analog signal supplied from the input terminal that is switched to; which switching is made; and

transmitting a digital signal identifying the input terminal, to the output apparatus, that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

54. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus via one of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals accepting only an information an analog signal;

providing the information input apparatus capable of accepting a digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus;

transmitting a start request wherein the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request that includes specific information of the information output apparatus and requests a start of processing a process of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending, from the information output apparatus, information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner

that it is superimposed on the information analog signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus;

detecting the information for identification, wherein the information input apparatus detects the information for identification from the information analog signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the plural input terminals; and

transmitting a digital signal identifying an input terminal wherein the information input apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information analog signal, to the output apparatus from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information when the information for identification is detected in the detecting the information for identification.

55. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus via one of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals accepting only an information an analog signal;

providing the information input apparatus capable of accepting a digital signal including specific information of the information output apparatus;

transmitting a start request wherein the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request that includes specific information of the information output apparatus and requests a start of processing a process of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending from the information output apparatus information for identification to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information analog signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information analog signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus;

notifying ~~the information for identification wherein the information input apparatus notifies~~ a user about the information for identification superimposed on ~~an information the~~ analog signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the input terminals; and

identifying an input terminal, wherein the information input apparatus accepts a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on ~~an information the analog~~ signal supplied from the input terminal that is switched to ~~which switching is made~~ when the user is notified about the information for identification in the information-for-identification notification step₂[[,]] and

transmitting a digital signal to the output apparatus that identifies the input terminal that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

56. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus having plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information an~~ analog signal via the first communication interface and a second

communication interface enabling transmission of ~~the information~~ a digital signal and additional information;

sending a start request ~~wherein from~~ the information output apparatus ~~sends~~ to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface ~~a start request~~ that includes specific information of the information output apparatus and requests ~~a start of processing a process~~ of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending information for identification ~~wherein the information output apparatus sends the information for identification~~ to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the ~~information analog~~ signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

~~detecting, with the information input apparatus, the information for identification wherein the information input apparatus detects the information for identification from the information analog signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals; and~~

~~transmitting a digital signal identifying an input terminal, wherein the information input apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information analog signal, to the output apparatus, from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information analog signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information if the information for identification is detected in the detecting the information for identification.~~

57. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing the information output apparatus connected to the information input apparatus having plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of ~~only an information~~ an analog signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of ~~the information~~ a digital signal and additional information;

sending a start request ~~wherein~~ from the information output apparatus ~~sends~~ to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface ~~a start request~~ that includes specific information of the information output apparatus and requests ~~a start of processing~~ a process of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending information for identification ~~wherein~~ from the information output apparatus ~~sends the information for identification~~ to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the ~~information~~ analog signal in such a manner that [[it]] the information for identification is superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

notifying ~~the information for identification~~ wherein the information input apparatus notifies a user about the information for identification superimposed on ~~an information~~ the analog signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing [[it]] the information for identification superimposed on the analog signal while switching among the input terminals; and

identifying an input terminal, wherein the information input apparatus accepts a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on ~~an information~~ ~~the analog~~ signal supplied from the input terminal to which switching is made when the user is notified about the information for identification in the information-for-identification notification step;[[,]] and

transmitting a digital signal to the output apparatus that identifies the input terminal
that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the ~~information~~ ~~analog~~ signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

58. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising:
~~recording a connection management information wherein the information input apparatus records~~ ~~input~~ terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified in the identifying the input terminal and the specific information of the information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

59. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 58, further comprising:
~~sending, a switching control signal wherein from~~ the information output apparatus, ~~sends the information input apparatus~~ a switching control signal including the specific information of the information output apparatus to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input terminal that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus before outputting ~~an information~~ ~~the analog~~ signal via the output terminal.

60. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 58, further comprising:

sending a ~~connection management information supply request wherein the information output apparatus generates~~ a request for supplying connection management information stored in the connection management memory in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other; ~~and~~

sending a switching control signal ~~wherein the information output apparatus generates a switching control signal to be used for making~~ switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request;[[,]] and

sends sending the generated switching control signal to the information input apparatus.

61. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 50 or 51, further comprising:

receiving an input terminal identification information, at information ~~wherein the information output apparatus, receives input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal that received the analog signal identified in the identifying the input terminal;~~ recording, in a connection management memory, the input terminal identification information received in the receiving the input terminal identification information step; and

sending to the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory before outputting ~~an information analog signal~~ via the output terminal.

62. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 51, 53, 55, and 57, wherein in the sending the information for identification a display message is superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal in a case where the ~~information~~ analog signal is a video signal.

63. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 51, 53, 55, and 57, wherein in the sending the information for identification a voice message is superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal in a case where the ~~information~~ analog signal is an audio signal.

64. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50, 52, 54, and 56, wherein:

~~in~~ the sending the information for identification step includes sending pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification ~~is~~ superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal as information for detection; and

~~in~~ the detecting step includes detecting ~~the~~ by the information input apparatus the pattern information superimposed on the ~~information~~ analog signal ~~is detected~~.

65. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 50, further comprising:

recording a connection management information wherein the information input apparatus records the connection management information in a connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated with each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified in the identifying the input terminal;

detecting, ~~by with~~ the information input apparatus, whether the connection management information is stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus; and

sending a start request from the information input apparatus when ~~that~~ the connection management information is not stored ~~is detected in the detecting,~~

~~wherein in the step of sending the start request the start request is sent when the start request is received from the information input apparatus.~~

66. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 61, further comprising:

detecting whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the information output apparatus,

~~wherein in the step of sending the start request includes sending the start request is sent when the detecting step detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored is detected in the detecting.~~

67. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising:

accepting an identification instruction input wherein the information output apparatus accepts an instruction input that commands identification of an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus,

wherein in the step of sending the start request includes sending the start request is sent when the identification instruction input is made in the accepting the identification instruction input.

68. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising:

detecting a connection change wherein the information input apparatus detects a connection change in any of the input terminals of the information input apparatus; and sending a start request wherein the information input apparatus sends a start request when, in the detecting step, a connection change detecting unit detects a connection change in any of the input terminals in the detecting the connection change,

wherein in the sending the start request the start request is sent when the start request is received from the information input apparatus.

69. (Canceled)

70. (Canceled)